

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

SOMALI CAMP



A Somali boy drinks tea at the U.N. registration center in Dagahaley refugee camp in Daadab, northern Kenya on Thursday June 25, 2009. The bloody conflict in Somalia has created the world's largest refugee camp, with 500 hungry and exhausted refugees pouring into this wind-swept camp in neighboring Kenya every day, according to the U.N. refugee agency.

See World News Page 8

SPORTS NEWS

ROGER RULES



Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a return shot to Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany in a third round singles match on centre court at Wimbledon, Friday, June 26, 2009.

See Sports Today Page 10

"90,000 Friends you haven't met yet"

Renaissance Aruba Resorts meet and greet the Ace Agents



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's Ace Agents visited Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino for a site inspection and lunch. The VIP visitors from the USA, on the island for a familiarization

trip, all signed up to become "Aruba Certified Experts," and as such are being introduced this weekend to the island's tourist product and all its vacation treasures.

Read Next Page

Thousands turn out for Car Show

Car Show kicks off at Hard Rock Café Aruba

PALM BEACH – On Thursday evening, thousands of car show lovers turned out for the kick off party in the Palm Beach Center in front of the Hard Rock Café Aruba. All kinds of makes and models were out in full force showing off their classic sleek lines, clean engines and divine interiors.

Drifting, is where drivers show off not only their respective vehicles, handling and power but their driving-skills as they maneuver them over a course either closed or opened on the streets or racing courts.

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CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
IN THE NEW McFLURRY

“90,000 Friends you haven’t met yet”

Renaissance Aruba Resorts meet and greet the Ace Agents

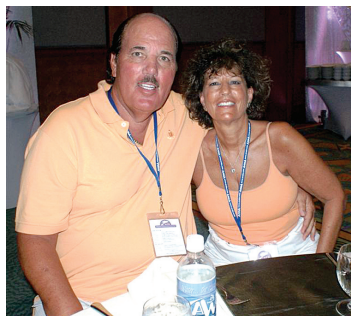


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The visitors strolled through the Renaissance Ocean Suites pool deck and took a look at family-friendly accommodations and facilities.

They later were invited for lunch at the Renaissance Convention Center and enjoyed a sumptuous spread catered by the culinary team, sampling Seafood Ceviche, Seafood Chowder, Farfalle pasta salad with roasted Portobello mushrooms and Caesar salad tossed to order. As main courses they enjoyed a-la-minute Chicken Breast with port sauce, pan fried Grouper Fillet with basil sauce, rosemary potatoes, Caribbean fried rice and Beef Tenderloin with Chimichuri sauce from the carving board. Dessert delivered fresh fruits, Profiteroles with pastry cream, fruit tartlets and peach yogurt terrines, just to name a few.

The ACE program is organized annually by the Aruba Tourism Authority – Happy Birthday Jan Allen - in conjunction with the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association and it is designed to inform and educate travel agents about Aruba. □



Divi's Windows on Aruba restaurant Hosts Press Conference



DIVI LINKS -- Windows on Aruba restaurant at Divi Links hosted a press conference for Digicel Aruba announcing the upcoming Red Jacket Golf Tournament, unfolding July 2nd at the nine hole course. Digicel reported that local companies and sponsors will be invited to participate and the golf tournament is expected to enlist players quickly, as fast as its predecessor, the previous year. Juan Kock sales manager for Digicel Aruba and his colleague Wanda Broeksma, marketing director for Digicel



Aruba, spoke to the press recently explaining that the tournament is part of the festivities planned in honor of Digicel's 6th anniversary on the island. A social hour from 7 to 9 p.m. will follow the Red Jacket Golf Tournament, allowing for networking after a festive award ceremony with red jacket trophies.

A local charity will also benefit from a substantial donation from funds raised by the tournament. The nine hole event will feature a fun golf clinic and great prizes for winners. Divi's elegant Windows on Aruba restaurant is now open for lunch and dinner, featuring a new gourmet lunch menu.

SATURDAY'S LOBSTER NIGHT



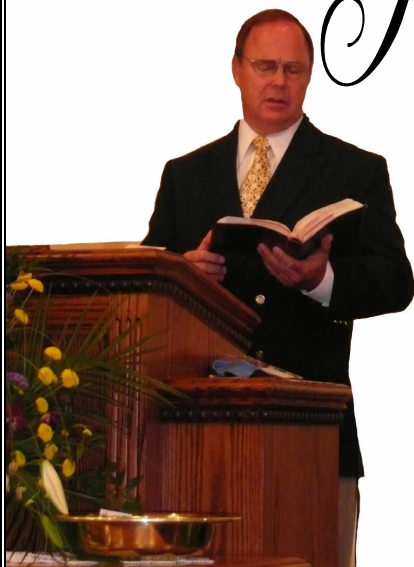
\$ 34.95 per person + 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

New England clam chowder or tossed salad with choice of dressing
Steamed Maine lobster with drawn butter and lemon or
broiled Maine lobster with cornbread and crab meat stuffing.



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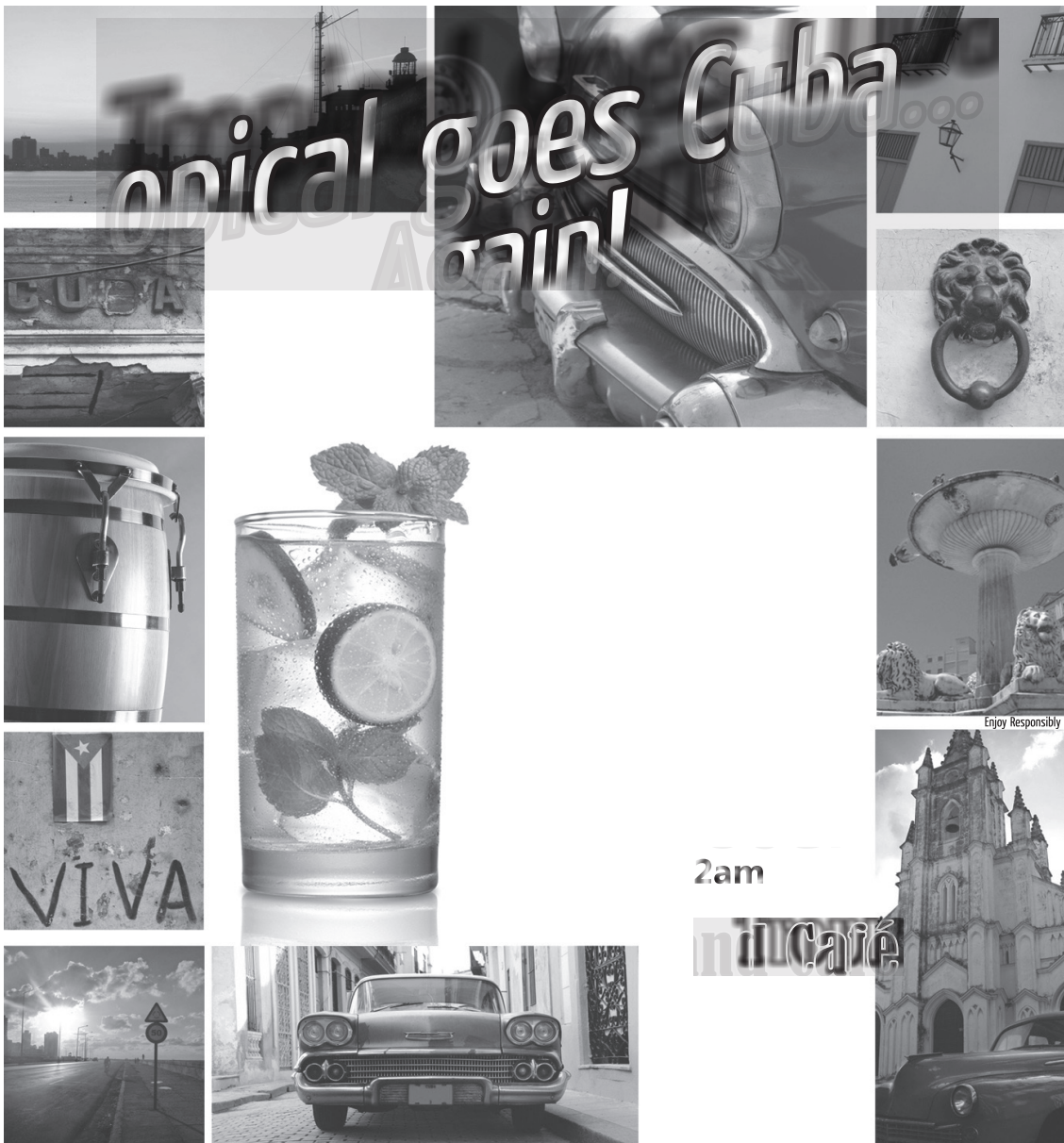
PALM BEACH - On Thursday evening, the staff and management team of The Westin Resort, Aruba entertained visiting ACE agents during a welcome cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception in their Starwood Gallery that features works from local artists.

ACE stands for Aruba Certified Experts, who are part of a group of more than a thousand travel agents from North America that have gone through a special certification program that educates them on the pleasures of the island so that they can better serve their clients and knowledgeably recommend Aruba as the top Caribbean destination that it is.

A group of more than 50 agents are here for several days to enjoy and explore the island first-hand as part



of a familiarization trip Tourism Authority and the sponsored by the Aruba Aruba Hotel and



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ACE agents



Tourism Association. the property of the newly-
On Thursday evening, the renovated Westin prior to
V.I.P. travel agents toured the cocktail party. □



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Sunday June 28th, 2009

1.00 p.m. at Seaport Casino



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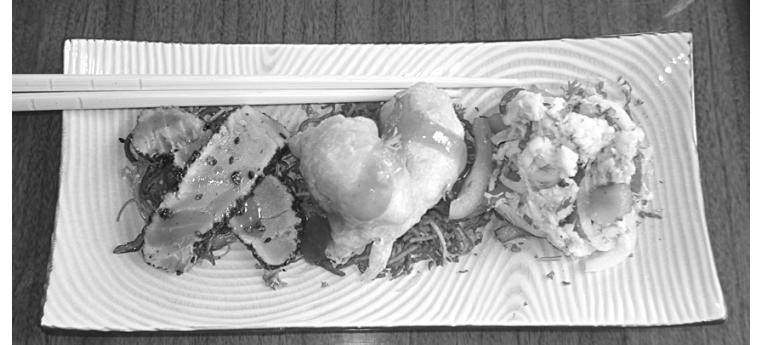
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At The Village across from the Radisson Resort

Chino Latino launches Sunday Brunch with tapas



PALM BEACH - On Sunday from 12 noon till 3pm, Chino Latino now offers an all-you-can-eat "tapas chino style" and all you can drink mimosa's for only \$30. The introduction of this new Sunday happening is yet another fun activity to participate in at The Village in Palm Beach.

Tonight, there will be a great pre-party for up and coming Green Village party. Enjoy the most amazing sounds from DataPanik then join the fun at Confessions with DJ Disciple.

Chino Latino is a member of the Aruba Wine & Dine consisting of the following companies: MooMba Beach, Hadicurari, Salt & Pepper, Tango, Sopranos, Mambo Jambo, Matilde, Café the Plaza, Chino Latino and Cactus Jack's. □



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5K Olympic Day Run & Walk 2009 Sunday, June 28 at 5:30pm starts and ends at Paseo Herencia

Afl5,- per person

The first 200 participants will receive a t-shirt

This is a charity event to raise funds for the Association of Aruban Olympic Athletes

Inauguration ceremony of the Olympic Wall of Fame at 6:30pm

Parking available in Paseo Parking Garage at Afl. 1.00 per hour
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Children under 10 eat for free off the Kid's Menu

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(Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy

their dinner as much as you will yours!

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on Palm Beach*

The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables

Early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75

Service charge not included.

**For reservations call
+(297) 586-3659**



Experience authentic regional ambiance every Friday evening at Pam-Pam Café



Pam-Pam Café, located in the charming Perle D'Or Resort in Bubali, is the place to be on Friday evenings for a great taste of regional music, dance, food and hospitality, as proprietors and hosts Nico and Monique van de Borne welcome guests for their weekly "Latin Night."

Pam-Pam Café is situated in a delightful tropical setting that is the perfect backdrop for a show by 2002 World Salsa Champions Janice and Oslin Boekhoudt, who run their Pachanga Dance School

out Perle D'Or. They and their dance troupe put on a show of the exotic Zouk, originating from the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and inspiration for the Brazilian Lambada. If their sensual movements inspire any audience members, they can sign up at Pam-Pam for private dance lessons from the Pachanga crew, which also teach Salsa and Merengue.

In addition to the island music and dance, reasonably prices snacks (10.50 in Aruban florins (\$6) for an Assorted Snack Platter or Buffalo Wings among



other choices) and cocktails are available throughout the evening. From 11 PM until closing time, Pam-Pam offers a special on top shelf whiskey for only 6 Aruban



florins (\$3.50)

If you are looking for the "real deal" in Caribbean entertainment and ambiance and a chance to rub elbows with islanders, schedule Pam-Pam Café as your Friday night entertainment!

Pam Pam restaurant

First-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced, and main courses, (25) which are priced between \$13 / \$22.

Pam-Pam's house specialty is a unique method of preparation, which presently,

in Aruba, is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "Gourmet Meal." A grill and a collection of the freshest of ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providing a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservations for this singular dining experience be made one day in advance.

When you want to see restaurants menu, visit: www.visitaruba.com Phone: 5877710 or 5932660

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At the Aruba Marriott Resort as sunset

Jamie & David pledge eternal love with the vows of marriage



PALM BEACH - Jamie Powers and David Gosweiler exchanged rings and vows as the sun gently set into the sea

last night on the beach at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. Rev. Andy Osborne

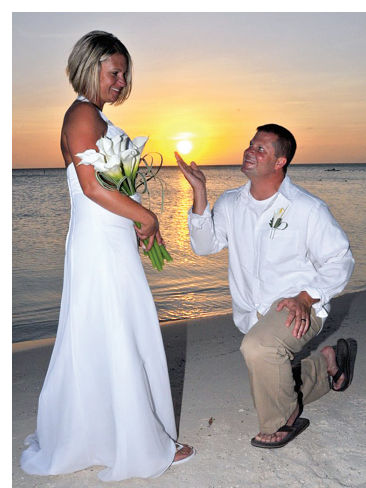
officiated the toes-in-the sand ceremony witnessed by their children Bryn and Mitch. After placing a ring on the others



finger and reading their vows of commitment to one another, the couple said I do and then signed the official documents. The intimate ceremony ended with a champagne and ginger ale toast and the cutting of the wedding cake.

The beach blessing was coordinated by Desiree Biker of the Aruba Marriott Resort and executed by her professional events team. Congratulations to Jamie and David from Aruba Today and may you celebrate all your anniversaries at your home away from home Aruba. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



Car Show kicks off at Hard Rock Café Aruba



Continued from Front Page

The three way match between Curacao, U.S.A. and Aruba kicked-off with a Carshow on June 25th and the event itself being held over the following 26th – 28th at Centro Deportivo Simon Antonio. Our sources say the American's were tremendous in their performances. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



At Moby Dick's in the Paseo Herencia Mall

100 years of combined Aruba patronage dine together



PALM BEACH – Every year this group of island guests have a dinner together and this year they chose the popular new Seafood Restaurant Moby Dick's. Some have 20 years under their belt and some only a few, but when the group of 10 friends of Aruba combine their years of visiting Aruba, they reach 100 years of patronage to the Happy Island of Aruba. They are all owners at the Playa Linda Beach Resort and have their favorite restaurants on Aruba, and this year they added another one to the top of their list. Enjoying the treasures of the sea and the friendliness of the sweet & salty staff, they are already making plans to visit Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant on their next trip back to Aruba.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Sarah commends Ank on 'bold step' taken

PHILIPSBURG - - Councilwoman and Democratic Party leader Sarah Wescot-Williams commended Dutch State Secretary for Interior and Kingdom Affairs Ank Bijleveld-Schouten last night on what she called "the bold step" taken during Wednesday's Political Steering Group meeting in Curaçao.

In that meeting it was agreed that Curaçao and St. Maarten would attain country status by October 31, 2010.

In a press release issued in Curaçao after the meeting, Wescot-Williams explained that the constitutional process was "not one of leaps and bounds, but one of small and sure steps" and Wednesday's agreement

was such a step.

She said the focus for Wednesday's meeting had been on the establishment of a date for the transition to the new country status, but while the outcome was "not an exact date yet" it was "close enough."

She also noted that the parties – the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and St. Maarten – had set two target dates before that could not be met.

"The State Secretary has stuck her neck out by establishing that St. Maarten will attain country status no later than October

31, 2010, a position that is to be commended. In essence, now, the date to become country is yet to be established, but will be no later than October 31, 2010."

She also noted that the Central Government (Parliamentary) election constitutionally due at the beginning of 2010 would have to be postponed and that the term of the Antillean Parliament would have to be extended for a few months, beyond the end of March 2010, but to a date no later than October 31, 2010.

"We are not out of the woods yet, as the approval

process of St. Maarten's compliance is yet to take place. In accordance with agreements reached in the past, this approval will take place in a conference to be held some time next year."

In concluding, the former constitutional affairs commissioner commended "the entire St. Maarten delegation" headed by new Constitutional Affairs Commissioner and National Alliance leader William Marlin, but "especially the hard-working advisors," some of whom she said had been part of the process for as long as she herself had been a part of it. □

More realistic

An exact date is yet to be determined, but by agreeing that the constitutional changes will go into effect no later than October 2010, the Kingdom partners have at least committed themselves to a firm timetable to finalise an issue that has plagued the Dutch Caribbean for decades, starting with the entire process for Aruba to gain its separate status in 1986.

It is not clear exactly what must happen if indeed no more elections for the Antillean Parliament are held and its current term runs out early next year, so a special committee will study the matter. The prevailing wisdom seems to be that the Netherlands Antilles and its Central Government cannot continue as is after that, so that some transitional arrangement will have to be made until the new Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten become a reality; each with its own parliament for which elections would have to be held at least two months before.

It is almost certain the opposition parties in particularly Curaçao will call not holding Antillean Parliament elections as scheduled while the new relations in the Kingdom are yet to go into effect undemocratic and will object strongly. It is therefore crucial to come up with something reasonably acceptable in objective terms, perhaps involving the Kingdom Government, the Council of State or the Governor as representative of the crown, or a combination thereof.

Other than that, while the Kingdom partners have now bought themselves some more time by moving the target date from January to October at the latest, a lot still remains to be done in a relatively short period. For St. Maarten that includes finalising pending matters such as a Gaming Control Board to regulate the local casino sector, introducing a code of conduct for public officeholders and establishing the office of the "Ombudsman" to defend the interests of the general public in dealing with government and its entities.

The new NA/Heyliger Executive Council has already indicated it will waste no time in taking these and other necessary steps to prepare the Island Territory for country status. The coming months will tell and will form the basis for a decision in September on the exact date for the new relations in the Kingdom to go into effect, but for now there is in any case a more realistic deadline in place. □





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Mystery Surrounds Alleged Hezbollah Links to Drug Arrests in Curacao



Security forces during the crack down in Bekaa Valley in April

By: Chris Zambelis

Mystery continues to surround Hezbollah's alleged links to the seventeen suspects arrested on drug trafficking charges on the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao on April 28. According to Curacaon authorities, approximately 250 law enforcement officials took down a major drug trafficking and money laundering ring led by a criminal network that shipped and sold cocaine and other contraband from Latin America and the Caribbean to Europe and the Middle East. In a significant twist, Curacaon authorities announced that the suspects had ties to international organized crime networks linked to Hezbollah in Lebanon; the suspects are accused of, among other things, having funneled part of their proceeds to Hezbollah through informal banking mechanisms (St. Maarten Island Times, May 2; Netherlands Info Services News, April 30; AP, April 29). Four Lebanese nationals were among those arrested in addition to an unspecified number of Colombians, Venezuelans, Cubans, Curacaons, and Surinamese (St. Maarten Island Times, May 2; NIS News, April 30). Curacaon authorities reported that officials from the Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia, Venezuela, and the United States aided in the investigation (St. Maarten Island Times, May 2; NIS News, April 30).

The suspects are reported to have specialized in exporting Colombian cocaine that they obtained from smugglers

who transported the drugs to Curacao using speedboats and ocean-going cargo ships that embarked from Venezuela. The drug ring is also reported to have imported arms, ammunition and hashish from the Netherlands to Curacao. Sources in Curacao reported that the suspects established an elaborate scheme to launder their illicit profits. Among other things, the smugglers purchased property in Curacao, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Lebanon. The Curacaon-based contingent of the drug ring, for instance, operated legitimate businesses on the island that served as front companies for their illicit activities (St. Maarten Island Times, May 2; NIS News, April 30).

On the surface, these events may appear to validate the concerns of many observers regarding the nexus between international organized crime and radical Shiite Islam in Latin America and the Caribbean. A closer examination of this case, however, indicates that other factors may be at play.

A Smuggler's Paradise

Curacao's geographic proximity to the Venezuelan coast makes it an ideal transshipment point for narcotics - especially Colombian cocaine - arms, and other contraband originating in Latin America and other parts of the Caribbean destined for international markets. Local- and foreign-based smugglers are also known to exploit the island's direct air traffic links to the Netherlands and close

European ties to ship their wares. The free-trade zone (FTZ) and state-of-the-art shipping and port facilities that have made Curacao a key hub in legitimate global trade and passenger cruise ship traffic are also conducive to smuggling and other illicit activities. While Curacao's oil industry has traditionally served as one of the island's main sources of revenue (Venezuela's state-run Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. [PDVSA] runs major oil refining operations at Curacao's Isla refinery), it is also a major offshore banking and financial services center. The offshore banking and financial services industry, an industry which represents an intrinsic part of the political-economy of the Caribbean, is often associated with money laundering, tax evasion, and international organized crime. Due to the scenic island's reputation as a tourist paradise for European and North American vacationers, however, this dark side of Curacao is often overlooked. Yet it is important to point out that Curacao is not alone in the region in this regard; much of Latin America and the Caribbean are beset by corruption, weak institutions, porous borders, and poverty, leaving them susceptible to international organized crime.

While Curacao enjoys autonomy in its domestic affairs, all matters related to foreign policy and national defense remain the responsibility of the Dutch government. The Dutch armed forces maintain a permanent presence on the island. In addition, United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) forces have, since 2000, utilized Curacao and fellow Dutch Caribbean island Aruba as Forward Operating Locations (FOL) to support its mission in the region. U.S. surveillance aircraft, for instance, depart from Curacao's Hato International Airport to conduct counter-narcotics detection and monitoring missions. U.S. investigators, security officials, and military personnel also operate from

the FOL in concert with local and regional partners. In spite of its strategic importance and the attention it receives from the United States and the Netherlands, Curacao remains a smuggler's paradise. This reality is emblematic of the scale of the challenges posed by international organized crime in the region.

Unanswered Questions

Allegations linking Hezbollah to drug trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean surface periodically (The National [Abu Dhabi], March 22). While Hezbollah continues to receive financial and material support from Iran, the group is known to boast an impressive independent fundraising capability. Donations from its supporters and sympathizers across the globe (including the sizeable Arab diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean), proceeds from legitimate business interests managed by the organization and illicit activities such as drug trafficking, counterfeiting, and related activities are widely assumed to help sustain the organization's social service, political, and military wings.

In spite of reports linking Hezbollah to the crime ring in Curacao, no details regarding the exact nature of Hezbollah's alleged involvement in the drug smuggling and money laundering operation were provided by Curacaon authorities or by the other parties involved in the investigation. In a similar incident, U.S. and Colombian authorities took down a major drug trafficking ring headed by Lebanese nationals in Colombia in October 2008 that was accused of maintaining ties to Colombian drug cartels and right-wing paramilitaries. The suspects detained in Colombia were alleged to have channeled part of their funds back to Hezbollah's coffers (El Espectador [Bogota], March 9). Similarly, details to explain the precise Hezbollah link to that criminal enterprise failed to emerge.

In another case, Colombian and Ecuadorian officials collaborated in June 2005 to take down a drug smuggling ring with global reach that was said to be linked to Hezbollah. According to Ecuadorian officials, the suspects, who included Lebanese, Syrians, Ecuadorians, Colombians, Algerians, Nigerians and Turks, are reported to have transferred 70% of their profits to Hezbollah. The ringleader of the group, Rady Zaiter (a.k.a. David Assi Alvarez and Almawla Fares), was a Lebanese national wanted on drug trafficking charges in France (CRE Satelital [Guayaquil], June 21, 2005). Zaiter's arrest and extradition to France led to further arrests of alleged accomplices involved in his drug operation in Brazil and the United States (Le Temps [Switzerland] June 27, 2005). As in the previous cases, no concrete details explaining the exact Hezbollah link to Zaiter's criminal activities ever emerged. Not surprisingly, Hezbollah has denied any involvement in the drug trade. Hezbollah describes attempts to link the group to the drug trade as an effort by its enemies to tarnish the reputation it has cultivated as a Lebanese nationalist movement and a legitimate player in Lebanese politics (Al-Manar TV [Beirut], October 23, 2008).

Hezbollah is also implicated in the drug trade in the Middle East, including the trade inside the borders of its archenemy Israel, one of the region's largest markets for recreational drugs. During the July 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, Israeli activists went so far as to call for hashish smokers in Israel to boycott the product based on the premise that proceeds from the sale of hashish on Israeli streets funded Hezbollah (The Forward [New York City], August 11, 2006). In addition to profiting from Israeli drug consumption, Hezbollah is also alleged to have used the drug trade to infiltrate the Israeli defense and security establishment by luring corrupt military, police,

and intelligence officers into profitable drug trafficking schemes in exchange for intelligence information. While most reports of Hezbollah's intelligence activities in Israel point to the group's ties to members of Israel's Arab minority and Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, Hezbollah successfully recruited a Lieutenant Colonel in the Israeli army who directed his own drug operation in Israel; Hezbollah operatives supplied the Israeli officer with hashish and heroin in exchange for intelligence information. And there are more cases like this one (Haaretz [Tel Aviv], April 1, 2008; Christian Science Monitor, April 15).

Lebanese Organized Crime

In light of reports linking Hezbollah to the drug trade in the Americas and beyond, observers concerned with this topic should also consider the role of Lebanese organized crime networks in Latin America and the Caribbean. Indeed, the situation on the ground in Lebanon as it relates to the relationship between Hezbollah and organized crime networks and drug trafficking suggests that a more complex dynamic is at work (The National, April 14; Christian Science Monitor, April 15).

Lebanese organized crime networks that traffic drugs and engage in other illicit activities have international connections that extend to the substantial Lebanese diaspora in the Americas and to other ethnic-based criminal organizations. Likewise, drug gangs based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, including networks led by powerful Shi'a clans, are routinely linked to Hezbollah. Lebanon's impoverished Bekaa Valley, a region where Hezbollah has traditionally drawn strong support, has long been a center for the

cultivation of cannabis for the production of hashish, the drug of choice for most recreational drug users in the Middle East. Drug gangs in the Bekaa Valley also cultivate poppy crops used to produce opium and heroin. According to some sources, upwards of 50 heavily-armed drug kingpins, each with their own stake in the drug trade, operate in the Bekaa Valley alone (AFP, October 4, 2008). Beirut and Hezbollah have traditionally turned a blind eye to the drug trade and other illicit activities in the Bekaa Valley to ensure the loyalty of the powerful Shi'a clans in the region who derive their livelihoods from the drug trade (al-Jazeera [Doha], April 14). Shi'a-led clans, however, are not the only groups involved in the global drug trade. When the Syrian army controlled most of Lebanon, Syrian officers regularly engaged in drug trafficking and other illicit activities for both monetary and political gains. Many of these networks remain in place in some form. During the Lebanese Civil War, Christian, Sunni, Palestinian and Leftist militias smuggled narcotics and engaged in other illicit activities on a global scale to the tune of tens of billions of dollars. [1] Following the conflict, many militias eventually morphed into full-fledged criminal organizations spanning the globe. The outward emigration of Lebanese and other Arab communities fleeing the conflict in the Levant to Latin America and the Caribbean provided Lebanese organized criminal networks with an opportunity to make international inroads in a manner analogous to the methods other ethnic-based organized criminal networks use to establish themselves among their kin across the globe.

A spate of recent incidents in Lebanon help shed light on

the complex interplay between Hezbollah, Lebanese-based organized crime groups in the Bekaa Valley, and allegations that implicate Hezbollah in a series of major drug cases in the Americas, including the recent case in Curacao. While Hezbollah has often turned a blind eye to drug and criminal activities in areas under its control, a marked expansion of the drug trade, a rash of car thefts, and bold attacks against Lebanese security services by Shi'a crime networks in recent months have raised tensions in the Bekaa Valley and have placed Hezbollah in a precarious position (al-Jazeera April 14). Tensions escalated further when thieves linked to local organized crime networks attacked the son of the late Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyeh and then stole his car near a small village in the Bekaa Valley. When the son of the revered Hezbollah commander mentioned to his assailants who he was and that he himself was an active member of the group, the thieves continued with their assault and took his

car anyway. In response to this affront, Hezbollah gave Beirut the go-ahead to deploy security forces in the Bekaa Valley to crack down on Shi'a gangs that are accustomed to operating unhindered (The National, April 14; Christian Science Monitor, April 15). These events are telling; the recent tensions between the organized crime networks and Hezbollah are indicative of the strength and influence of criminal gangs in Lebanon. Most importantly, these incidents also demonstrate the independence of these groups and their willingness to challenge Hezbollah (and the state) through violence when they see their interests being threatened.

Conclusion

Detailed evidence regarding Hezbollah's supposed involvement in the Curacao drug case has yet to emerge. The nature of Hezbollah's alleged connection to the detainees in the Curacao drug case may eventually surface, but in the meantime, serious researchers concerned with

these issues should factor in the potential role of Lebanese organized crime networks that may be linked to Hezbollah through their contacts and connections in the Bekaa Valley, but who are motivated by profits, not politics. It is also possible that independent members of Lebanese organized crime networks operating in the Americas and elsewhere are contributing portions of their proceeds to Hezbollah out of sympathy for the group.

Hezbollah, after all, remains popular among many Lebanese, particularly the Shi'a, but also among other sects within the Lebanese diaspora. Political motivations intended to harm Hezbollah's standing in Lebanese politics may be behind many of these accusations. At the very least, the recent events in the Bekaa Valley indicate that Hezbollah's connection to the drug trade in Lebanon and beyond is far more complex than is often reflected in the sweeping generalizations characteristic of much of the media coverage of the topic. □



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MLB reacts to Jackson, Fawcett deaths

King of Pop and Charlie's Angels star had fans around league



By Mark Newman / MLB.com

The year was 1976.

Farrah Fawcett had the poster that was on walls everywhere.

Michael Jackson was fronting "The Jacksons" -- as the band started off on its own a year after leaving Motown. Johnny Bench and Cincinnati's Big Red Machine repeated as World Series champs, and this time it wasn't even close -- a powerhouse sweep of the Yankees, following a three-game sweep of the Phillies for the National League pennant.

American icons.

Farrah is gone now. She passed away Thursday from cancer.

Michael is gone now. He passed away at almost the same time due to cardiac arrest.

Sparky Anderson's team was one of the mightiest in Major League Baseball history, arguably in the top five, loaded with legends and a Hall of Fame manager.

She was a symbol of beauty and then courage for so many. He was the King of Pop, fallen from this decade but nonetheless an icon for countless millions who always held hope he would find a graceful comeback, somehow, that would make us watch him again. You remembered or you were looking it up on Thursday, as hearts ached.

Nationals center fielder Willie Harris' heart ached. He was the reason that Michael Jackson's music filled Nationals Park throughout his team's 9-3 victory over Boston Thursday night. It was a somber and sad celebration, just as there will be Michael music during the Dodgers' Friday Night Fireworks event.

"I heard about Michael Jackson when I was in the batting cage before the game," Harris said. "After I heard it, it saddened me. That's why I got in touch with our music lady upstairs. I told her I want Michael Jackson played tonight. I was able to get that song played tonight. It's just to honor a legend. He is a legend, man. It's a part of life, but sometimes, it's a hard pill to swallow. I'm sure the entire world is saddened because of his death. But at the same time, you have to keep moving and pushing forward."

That's what baseball does. Nothing pushes forward like baseball, other than time itself. It was there when Michael came out with "Thriller" and "Bad" and his endless string of hits that helped define not just one generation but two. It was there through his turbulent days in recent years, during his fall from grace. It was there when Farrah drew critical acclaim and an Emmy nomination for her role portraying an abused woman in "The Burning Bed" -- in 1984, the last year the Tigers won it all. Right now they are looking very much like a team that could do it again for the first time since then, and you remember 1984.

In 1984, Michael wore one glove, which is something in common with baseball players. He was at the White House, invited there by President Ronald Reagan. That same year, Michael co-wrote the charity single "We Are

The World" with Lionel Richie. Indeed, Michael was the world then.

No one was bigger. No one more recognizable globally. He owned it.

"It's a bad day for the music industry, or for anybody," Cody Ross of the Marlins said after his team's game. "It's a sad day. He lived a good life -- he made a lot of money and had some kids. Your heart goes out to his family."

"When I walked in today and saw the news, I was taken aback. He one of the all-time greats -- like the Babe Ruth of music. He's right there with Elvis and all those guys. Anytime something like that happens, it's tough to swallow."

Braves hitting coach Terry Pendleton was born in Los Angeles in 1960 and grew up with Michael's music -- and even joined Fawcett on a sitcom set. He said after Atlanta's game that, "you just think people like that are going to be around forever."

"They're the superstars," Pendleton said. "You don't ever think they're going to die. But it's a reminder for all of us that none of us are invincible. Each of us will have a day."

"Growing up, I think all of us that were in that Michael Jackson era in 1971 or '72, when the Jackson 5 burst on the scene, knew that what he brought to the music and entertainment world might be unmatched."

"As for Farrah, I had the pleasure of [appearing in] a few episodes of a sitcom with her in 1990. She was just a great person. I had never been in that sort of environment and she went out of her way to make sure that I felt comfortable. I thought that just so professional. She was a class act."

Braves pitcher Jair Jurrjens, a 23-year-old Curacao native, said, "everybody listens to Michael Jackson growing up. ... It shocked the world. We lost a good entertainer. I hear he was making a comeback too. It stinks. He had some hits. I'm young so I didn't listen to him all that much. The 'Free Willy' song was good."

Rays reliever J.P. Howell was focused on a big World Series rematch against Philadelphia, a game his team won at home, 10-4. But he also was talking about the shock of the day.

"I used to listen to his music so it's kind of weird," he said of Jackson. "My sister was a big fan. He had some trouble, but at the same time he was definitely a national figure."

"I heard when he was rushed to the hospital and you don't think much of it. Then I heard he passed away and it was kind of like, 'Wow.'"

"For me, the Jackson 5 is the part of Michael Jackson's career that I admired most," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. As a young group they were the bomb back then and they were so impressive because of their youth and their talent. It was very unique. And that's how I remember Michael Jackson, personally.

"Farrah Fawcett, we all remember Farrah Fawcett. And it's really a shame that the lady suffered. We all had that poster up on our wall at some point. And God bless her,

man, she was a beautiful lady. And it's very difficult to watch her demise that way."

Right now, you might be Googling for Farrah's famous poster and remembering her career as an original on "Charlie's Angels" during a slower time when TV entertainment meant three TV networks. Maybe you are watching her recent documentary, sharing the story with younger people about how, as a cancer patient, she fought for, then surrendered, her treasured privacy to document her struggle with the disease and inspire others.

Right now, you might be searching for every Michael Jackson video you can find on YouTube. You might be crying as you hear the high-pitched voice of a child at the front of The Jackson Five, hearing "ABC" and "I'll Be There" and "Rockin' Robin." Maybe you will realize that Hall of Famer "Rockin'" Robin Yount got his nickname from a show-biz wonder.

Right now, you might be turning to a baseball game to block out the reality of loss. That's what always happens in times of trouble.

A lot of us are taking this personally, because for so many it was a real fact of one's own life. When your icons go -- especially when they go one after another just like that, commanding headlines and then Twitter conversation everywhere -- it makes you reach for an escape, something to smile about and lose yourself in.

Ron Washington, the Texas Rangers' manager, was thinking back on wistful memories as people talked about Michael Jackson before that club's game against Arizona. "He was from my era," Washington said. "He put out some outstanding music and some awesome dance steps. It was quite exciting. I don't know what to say except I'm going to miss Michael Jackson."

"I was sad," Florida's Dan Uggla said, and that pretty much summed up what Thursday was like for a lot of people.

They played Michael's music during batting practice before Saturday night's Civil Rights Game in Cincinnati, home of that old Big Red Machine. It was for a completely different reason, though. It was to celebrate the soulful sounds of the Civil Rights movement at its height. Now they play it around the Majors, on radio stations everywhere, because there is no more Michael Jackson, and there is no more Farrah Fawcett.

They are only memories now, just as the Big Red Machine's dominating 1976 sweep is just a memory, a blur in four games with Bench winning MVP.

"It's a shame when anybody passes away," Nationals reliever Ron Villone said. It's what people were talking about around baseball, besides baseball.

"They were two icons in our society in music and the acting industry. Condolences to their families. I hope everybody can mourn and get over things. It's a shame that they had to pass away. Farrah Fawcett doesn't have to suffer anymore and [Michael Jackson's death] was an unfortunate incident." □

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The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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In a Dec. 30, 2008 file photo two wind turbines stand near a traditional windmill on a farm near Mount Carmel, Iowa. A first-of-its-kind study suggests that average and peak wind speeds have been noticeably slowing since 1973, especially in the Midwest and the East.

Associated Press

Deal sends global warming bill to Congress floor

DINA CAPPIELLO

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key Democrats reached a deal Tuesday that its supporters hope will lead to passage of the biggest environmental bill in decades, one aimed at slowing the gradual, destructive heating of the planet.

Farm-state Democrats won concessions that will delay the Environmental Protection Agency from drafting regulations that could hamper the ethanol industry and will hand the Agriculture Department oversight of potentially lucrative projects to reduce greenhouse gases on farms. The House of Representatives is expected to take up the legislation on Friday, the first time the chamber will vote on a bill that would impose nationwide limits on the gases blamed for global warming emitted from power plants, factories and automobiles.

The breakthrough came hours after President Barack Obama at a news conference called on the House to pass the legislation, and a new EPA analysis showed that it would raise household energy costs on average only an extra \$80 to \$111 a year.

"It is legislation that will finally spark a clean energy transformation that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and confront the carbon pollution that threatens our planet," Obama said. "And that is why I urge members

of the House to come together and pass it."

The deal also concludes weeks of closed-door negotiations between the bill's sponsor, Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman and farm-state Democrats, led by Rep. Collin Peterson who expressed concern in recent weeks that there was not enough in the bill to alleviate the costs for farmers and said they would vote against it.

Peterson said Tuesday the agreement secured his vote.

The Obama administration and Congress are under pressure to pass climate and energy legislation prior to an international gathering slated for Copenhagen, Denmark, in December. The U.S. will sit down with other nations to hammer out a new international agreement to curb the emissions linked to global warming. Peterson and Waxman, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, announced the agreement late Tuesday. The deal will bar the EPA for five years from including the conversion of forests to crop land when it calculates how ethanol production will contribute to global warming. During that time, the agency will have to conduct a study.

The agreement also includes a promise from Waxman that the Agriculture Department, not EPA, will oversee projects that will reduce greenhouse emissions on farms.

Continued on Next Page

'Jena 6' beating case wraps up with plea deal



Attorney James Boren, center, talks during a news conference after leaving the LaSalle Parish Courthouse in Jena, La., Friday, June 26, 2009, attorneys Una Dean, left, and Harry Daniels III, listen. Boren is the attorney for Robert Bailey Jr., a member of the Jena Six.

Associated Press

MARY FOSTER

Associated Press Writer

JENA, Louisiana (AP) — Five black students pleaded no contest Friday to misdemeanor simple battery and won't serve jail time, ending a case that thrust a small Louisiana town into the national spotlight and sparked a massive civil rights demonstration.

Continued on Page B5



Iraqis load destroyed motorcycles in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, June 26, 2009. A booby-trapped motorcycle exploded in a crowded bazaar Friday in Baghdad, less than a week before a deadline for U.S. combat troops to leave Iraq's urban areas.

Associated Press

Motorcycle bombs kill 20 in Baghdad attacks

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Motorcycle bombs killed at least 20 people in separate attacks in Baghdad Friday, at least 19 of them in a crowded bazaar, part of an apparent trend toward increased use of motorcycles to thwart stepped-up security measures.

The attacks were the latest in a week of violence that has killed more than 250 people, with just four days to go before the deadline for U.S. combat troops to withdraw from cities.

Continued on Page B6



Lynn Cvechko of Charleston, W. Va., protests a climate change bill at a rally in front of the federal building in Huntington, W. Va., Thursday, June 25, 2009. The bill, which would impose a "cap-and-trade" system that would force higher energy costs, passed a crucial test Friday, June 26, in the U.S. House of Representatives. Republicans have branded it for weeks as an energy tax on every American.

Associated Press

GLOBAL WARMING

Continued from Page B1

Waxman said after the meeting that he has the votes to pass the bill and the deal with Peterson shows support from three key groups — environmentalists, farmers and much of the industry involved. Waxman had already struck deals with coal- and oil-state Democrats to ensure their support.

"That's a mighty effective combination," he said.

For weeks much of the behind-the-scenes discussions have focused on how much the bill would cost average consumers, who are likely to face rising prices for electricity and fuels as companies make investments to reduce global warming pollution. Republicans have called the bill a national energy tax that would cost households thousands of dollars a year.

Minority Leader John Boehner, in a memo to House Republicans sent earlier on Tuesday, called the pending floor vote "one of the defining debates of the 2010 cycle" and said that Democrats will vote for it at their political peril.

"Americans know that this bill would have a disastrous impact on our economy and our constituents," Boehner wrote. "The American people will remember this debate and will remember who stands up for them."

But two separate analyses by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office offered far lower estimates. The studies said low-income families would receive hundreds of dollars in credits or rebates each year through the sale of permits and the average cost per household would be \$175. The EPA analysis released Tuesday

said the average household cost would be even lower — \$80 to \$111. The House bill would require factories, refineries and power plants to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the leading compound linked to global warming, and six other greenhouse gases by roughly 80 percent by midcentury and hasten the nation's energy shift away from fossil fuels by putting a price on carbon dioxide releases. The reductions would be made by capping emissions on key polluting sources. The polluters would then be provided emission permits with the cap declining each year. Some 85 percent of the permits would be given away, especially to energy intensive sectors of the economy. But others would be sold by the government, with some of the proceeds used to help people meet higher energy costs. □

Major provisions of House climate and energy bill

The Associated Press

Highlights of climate bill approved passed by the House:

— Reducing greenhouse gases by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050 through a cap-and-trade program that allows pollution permits to be bought and sold.

— Limiting emissions from major industrial sources, including power plants, factories, refineries and electricity and natural gas distributors.

Emissions from agriculture would be excluded from the cap.

— Controlling carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels and limiting six other greenhouse gases.

— Allowing companies to meet emission-limiting targets by investing in offset

projects such as tree planting and forest protection.

— Requiring electric utilities to produce at least 12 percent of their power from renewable sources such wind and solar energy by 2020, and requiring as much as 8 percent in energy efficiency savings.

— Imposing tighter performance standards on new coal-fired power plants and providing \$1 billion a year in development money for capturing carbon dioxide from such plants.

— Establishing standards that will require new buildings to be 30 percent more energy-efficient by 2012 and 50 percent more efficient by 2016.

— Protecting consumers from rising energy costs by giving rebates and credits to low-income households. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

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South Carolina governor tries to lead after affair

JIM DAVENPORT

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — It was a routine state Cabinet meeting, one with reports on declining tax revenues, the number of kids on Medicaid and an update on a drunken driving campaign. Routine, except for the 20-plus television cameras and reporters scrunched into a tiny room in a building next to the state's Capitol. They were there to watch South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford conduct his first official meeting since making a very public — and torturous — admission that although he has been married for 20 years, he'd carried on a passionate love affair with a woman in Argentina.

Sanford, it seemed, anticipated the media scrum. As he walked to the meeting down a corridor

lined with camera bags, tripods and snaking power cords, he held his head high.

Yet the question remains: Can Sanford effectively govern, now that salacious details of the affair have come to light?

The affair has been the stuff of tabloid headlines and intrigue since he returned to South Carolina Wednesday after jetting off to Argentina for a secret rendezvous with his mistress.

And Sanford kicked off the meeting by apologizing to each of them as cameras clicked and reporters scribbled notes and recorded it all.

At one point, he likened his confession and future to the biblical plight of King David — and looks of nervousness and incredulity crept into the officials' faces.

Maybe they were afraid that

Detroit lawmaker pleads guilty to taking bribes

By JEFF KAROUB

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — City Council member Monica Conyers, the wife of powerful Democratic congressman John Conyers, pleaded guilty Friday to accepting cash bribes in exchange for supporting a sludge contract with a Houston company. Conyers, a 44-year-old fiery first-term council member, spoke quietly as she pleaded guilty in federal court to a single count of conspiracy to commit bribery, responding only to questions from Judge Avern Cohn.

She faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when she's sentenced.

"This has been a trying time for the Conyers family and, with hope and prayer, they will make it through this as a family," said a spokesman for John Conyers. "Public officials must expect to be held to the highest ethical and legal standards. With this in mind, Mr. Conyers wants to work towards helping his family and city recover from this serious matter."

Prosecutors accused Monica Conyers of accepting two

payments from a Synagro Technologies official in late 2007 in exchange for supporting the sludge contract. They said Conyers received envelopes containing cash on Nov. 20, 2007 in the parking lot of a Detroit community center and on Dec. 4 of that year in a McDonald's parking lot. In November 2007, Conyers voted in favor of the Synagro contract. Before and after her vote, the U.S. attorney's office said she received cash payments from an individual sent by Rayford Jackson, a paid consultant for Synagro. Conyers is the most prominent person snagged in the Synagro corruption investigation. Jackson and another person who worked for the company already had pleaded guilty. City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr. told WJBK-TV that according to the City Charter, any elected official found guilty of a felony would have to step down from the council. Cockrel said he would speak with city lawyers about the council's next steps.

The Synagro sludge contract was rescinded in January.

The council voted 5-4 in



South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford makes his way through the video cameras and reporters for the start of his cabinet meeting Friday, June 26, 2009, in Columbia, S.C., where he apologized to his state agency chiefs for keeping them in the dark when he went to Argentina to see his mistress.

Associated Press

he would launch into another emotional confession — like he did on Wednesday, when he revealed during a press conference that he had "spent the last five days of (his) life crying in Argentina." Or that he would address the purported e-mails back and forth to his lover, in which he praised her tan line and curvy hips.

Meanwhile, the governor's wife Jenny Sanford recalled Friday how her husband repeatedly asked permission to visit his lover in the months after she discovered his affair. "I said absolutely not. It's one thing to forgive adultery; it's another thing to condone it," she told The Associated Press during a 20-minute interview at the coastal home where she sought refuge with their four sons. They were her first extended comments on the affair.

She said that when her husband inexplicably disappeared last week, she hoped he was hiking on the Appalachian Trail, as his staff told those who inquired about his absence. That he had dared to go to Argentina to see the other woman left her stunned.

"He was told in no uncertain terms not to see her," she said in a strong, steady voice. "I was hoping he was on the Appalachian Trail. But I was not worried about his safety. I was hoping he was doing some real soul searching

somewhere and devastated to find out it was Argentina. It's tragic."

The Sanfords had separated about two weeks ago. She said her husband told the family that he wanted some time away to work on writing a book and clear his head. The first lady said, "I had every hope he was not going to see her."

"You would think that a father who didn't have contact with his children, if he wanted those children, he would toe the line a little bit," she said. Sanford, who is staying at the official residence in Columbia, returned Wednesday to end days of speculation on his whereabouts, publicly confess his cheating and emotionally apologize.

Jenny Sanford, a Georgetown-educated, former Wall Street vice president, did not stand next to her husband Wednesday during his pained public confession.

Sanford said she discovered her husband's affair early this year after coming across a copy of a letter to the mistress in one of his files in the official governor's mansion. He had asked her to find some financial information, she said, not an unusual request considering her heavy involvement in his career. She would not comment on what was in the letter except to say "enough to figure out an affair was going on." □



In this Sept. 9, 2008 file photo, Monica Conyers attends a council meeting in Detroit. Prosecutors on Friday, June 26, 2009 charged Conyers with one count of accepting bribes.

Associated Press

November 2007 to award a \$47-million-a-year contract to Synagro to recycle wastewater sludge and build a state-of-the-art incinerator to replace one that belches yellow plumes over a poor neighborhood.

In January, Synagro's Michigan representative, Jim Rosendall, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery. His plea agreement described how he distributed cash and other gifts to officials. Jackson pleaded guilty on June 15. □

Obama says U.S., Germany oppose violence in Iran

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House

Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Standing next to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Barack Obama said Friday the United States and Germany share “one voice” in condemning the Iranian effort to crush dissent. He said Iran’s leaders cannot hide the “outrageous” behavior of clamping down violently on their people.

“We see it and we condemn it,” Obama said.

Obama spoke in a joint White House appearance with Merkel after they conferred privately. The two leaders have met three times since Obama took office, allies linked by such international troubles as the war in Afghanistan and a worldwide recession.

Keeping pressure on Iran, Obama hailed the Iranian people.

“Their bravery in the face of brutality is a testament to their enduring pursuit of justice,” Obama said.

“The violence perpetrated against them is outrageous. In spite of the government’s efforts to keep the world from bearing witness to that violence, we see it and we condemn it.”

Obama also scoffed at the idea that he should apologize to Iran’s leaders for criticizing their violent crackdown on demonstrators and said President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has operated outside “international norms” and now must answer to his people.

Merkel backed Obama’s stand. She said Iran must be kept from getting a nuclear weapon.

Merkel pledged an effort to identify the victims of violence of Iran — who they are and what happened to them.

“Iran cannot count on the world turning a blind eye,” she said. “We will not forget.”

Obama’s criticism of Iran



President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel participate in a joint news conference, Friday, June 26, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

escalated Friday into an unusually personal war of words. To Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s demand he apologize for meddling, Obama shot back that the regime should “think carefully” about answers owed to protesters it has arrested, bludgeoned and killed.

The president spoke at an East Room news conference with Merkel, one of several European leaders who spoke out more forcefully, more quickly than Obama on the unrest in Iran that followed the disputed June 12 elections.

Turning to Iraq, where a deadline for U.S. combat troops to leave all cities was just four days away, Obama offered no support for allowing a spate of recent violence to push back the withdrawal. “If you look at the overall trend, despite some of these high-profile bombings, Iraq’s security situation has continued to dramatically improve,” Obama said.

Of bigger concern than the violence, Obama said, is the lack of movement on laws to share oil revenues and other

matters that keep Iraq deeply fractured along sectarian lines. He called on Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to step up his leadership.

Merkel’s visit happened to coincide with the day that a sweeping global warming bill came up for a vote in the House amid contentious partisan sniping about its effect on jobs and consumer costs. With the vote still hours away and the outcome in doubt, Obama and Merkel, who has made climate change a top priority, presented the rare sight of an American president and a visiting foreign leader together urging the U.S. Congress to act.

Obama said he had been “very blunt and frank” with Merkel that it will take significant time to turn the U.S. into a world leader on climate change but that the “critical” bill before the House was a good start. Merkel sympathized with the difficulty of approving such legislation, which would impose the first-ever limits on greenhouse gas pollution and force a shift to cleaner energy sources.

“I know what’s at stake, when

you talk about reduction targets, how tricky that is,” Merkel said.

In Iran, the government proclaimed the incumbent hardline president, Ahmadinejad, the landslide winner of the June 12 voting over opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, prompting widespread protests followed by a brutal state-led crackdown. Ahmadinejad told Obama Thursday to “show your repentance” for criticizing Tehran’s response. “I don’t take Mr. Ahmadinejad’s statements seriously about apologies, particularly given the fact that the United States has gone out of its way not to interfere with the election process in Iran,” Obama responded sternly.

“I would suggest that Mr. Ahmadinejad think carefully about the obligations he owes to his own people,” he added. “And he might want to consider looking at the families of those who’ve been beaten or shot or detained. And, you know, that’s where I think Mr. Ahmadinejad and others need to answer their questions.”

It was Obama’s first direct criticism of any of Iran’s leaders. Even more, it was coupled with his first specific boost for Mousavi. “Mousavi has shown to have captured the imagination or the spirit of forces within Iran that were interested in opening up,” Obama said.

The remark sought to clarify what many view as Obama’s biggest misstep — saying last week in a television interview that there may not be much difference between Ahmadinejad and Mousavi. But it appeared to swing over to an outright endorsement of Mousavi, though White House press secretary Robert Gibbs denied it was meant that way. Obama also said for the first time that his offer to loosen the decades-old U.S. diplomatic freeze with Iran through direct talks is now in question.

“There is no doubt that any direct dialogue or diplomacy with Iran is going to be affected by the events of the last several weeks,” Obama said, without elaborating.

Gibbs said Obama was “more stating the obvious” that no talks are possible while developments are still unfolding. And Obama said that an existing system of multilateral talks with Iran over its suspected goal of building a nuclear bomb, involving nations including the U.S., Europe, China and Russia, must continue.

“The clock is ticking. Iran is developing a nuclear capacity at a fairly rapid clip,” he said. Merkel agreed there must be no letup among nations trying to stop Iran’s nuclear development, which Tehran insists is aimed at providing only electric power, not weapons. She said “we have to bring Russia and China alongside,” referring to the two nations most historically unwilling to get tough with Iran over the nuclear standoff.

JENA SIX

Continued from Page B1

State District Judge Tom Yeager then sentenced the five, standing quietly surrounded by their lawyers, to seven days unsupervised probation and fined \$500. It was a far less severe end to their cases than seemed possible when the six students — all of whom are black — were initially charged with attempted murder in the 2006 attack on Justin Barker, a white classmate. They became known as the “Jena Six,” after the central Louisiana town where the beating happened. “I just thank God that it’s all over,” said John Jenkins, father of Carwin Jones. “It’s been a long, painful journey for everyone on both sides of this thing.” Barker and his family and friends sat without expression throughout the hearing. Barker’s attorney said he graduated and is now an oil field worker. The family did not comment.

As part of the deal, one of the attorneys read a statement from the five defendants in which they said they knew of nothing Barker had done to provoke the attack.

“To be clear, not one of us heard Justin use any slur or say anything that justified Mychal Bell attacking Justin nor did any of us see Justin do anything that would cause Mychal to react,” the statement said.

The statement also expressed sympathy for Barker and his family, and acknowledged the past 2½ years had “caused Justin and his parents tremendous pain and suffering, much of which has gone unrecognized.”

Barker spent several hours in the emergency room after the attack, but was discharged and attended a school event the next night.

By pleading no contest, the five do not admit guilt but acknowledge prosecutors had enough evidence for a conviction. LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters said in a statement that he could have won convictions but wanted to end the matter for Barker.

Charges against Jones, Jesse Ray Beard, Robert Bailey Jr., Bryant Purvis and Theo Shaw had previously been reduced

from attempted murder to aggravated second-degree battery. All but Shaw were assessed \$500 in court costs. The judge did not tack that punishment on to Shaw’s case because he stayed in jail for almost seven months, unable to raise bail, following his initial arrest.

Each paid the fine and court costs immediately. The payment of restitution to Barker was also part of the deal, but the amount was not released. A lawsuit filed by Barker against the group was also settled Friday, though the terms were confidential.

The only member of the group to serve jail time was Bell, who pleaded guilty in December 2007 to second-degree battery and was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Four of Friday’s defendants have graduated from high school, and all are attending or getting ready to attend college. Purvis has completed his first year and Bell is planning to attend college this fall. Beard is a senior in high school in Connecticut.

“They can move along with their lives,” said Bailey’s attorney, James Boren. □

At least eight die in turnpike traffic wreck

SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI, Oklahoma (AP)—At least eight people died Friday when a tractor-trailer slammed into a line of cars stopped on a northeast Oklahoma turnpike by an earlier accident, leaving twisted metal and debris strewn about the highway. Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. George Brown said traffic was stopped about 1 p.m. on the Will Rogers Turnpike northeast of Miami because of an earlier crash when the big rig slammed into at least three cars, which then crashed into more vehicles. “It looks like a war zone,” he said. “There’s mangled metal everywhere. There’s debris, fluids, dead bodies.”

Brown said at least eight people were killed, but he feared rescue crews might find more bodies as they worked to get to an automobile pinned under the semitrailer.

Investigators don’t believe the driver of the tractor-trailer tried to stop before the crash, Brown said. The speed limit in the area is 75 mph (120 kph).

Jericho Malphrus, 17, was driving with his mom to his hometown of Orient, Ohio, after touring a Bible college in Broken Arrow. He said he saw a young girl being removed from wreckage that contained the bodies of two adults in the front seat. “Mainly what struck me was the amount of debris everywhere,” Malphrus said. “There



Rescue workers and authorities work at the scene of a multiple-vehicle accident on Interstate 44 near Miami, Okla., Friday, June 26, 2009. Eight people were killed when a tractor-trailer slammed into a line of cars stopped in traffic on the northeast Oklahoma turnpike.

Associated Press

were clothes and snacks and debris. Someone’s suitcase had busted open and a little girl’s clothes were everywhere.”

Brown said the truck driver was taken to an area hospital, as was a 12-year-old girl who was pinned for a time in a wrecked vehicle before emergency workers could free her. He did not know their medical conditions. □

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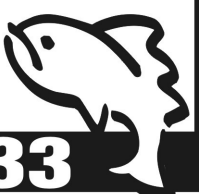


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Police inspect the site of a bombing at a bus station in southwest Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, June 25, 2009. The blast was the latest in a series of deadly attacks ahead of a U.S. military withdrawal from cities next week.

Associated Press

BAGHDAD ATTACKS

Continued from Page B1

The spike has raised fresh doubts about the ability of Iraqi forces to provide security and fight a stubborn insurgency as their American partners become less visible.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have warned they expect more violence in the days surrounding the deadline as militants stage a show of force to try to stoke sectarian bloodshed and undermine confidence in the government.

But American commanders and Iraqi leaders have insisted the withdrawal will go ahead as scheduled. Under a security pact, the Americans must pull back from cities by June 30 and from the entire country by the end of 2011.

The deadliest blast occurred just after 9 a.m. when a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded in a market packed with young people buying or selling the vehicles in central Baghdad, according to police and hospital officials.

Ghaith Abdul-Allah, 35, was unloading motorcycles he planned to sell from his truck when the blast occurred.

"I saw a ball of fire and some motorbikes were lifted about 10 meters (yards) into the air," he said. "When the smoke from the explosion vanished, I saw a large number of young men lying on the ground soaked in blood."

"There were others who were screaming and crying for a lost brother or a friend. I do not know why these explosions are taking place and the Iraqi security forces are doing nothing to stop them," he added.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack, but insurgents frequently target crowded market districts to try to maximize casualties. The motorcycle bazaar is only open on Fridays, and police

and hospital officials said the bomb on the motorcycle was loaded with nails and ball-bearings.

The market has been hit by several bombings in the past, but Iraqis had resumed flocking to the area due to a sharp drop in violence.

Attacks in Iraq have continued on a daily basis despite the security gains of the past two years, but many of the recent bombings have been larger in terms of numbers killed.

Police and hospital officials gave the death toll and said more than 50 people also were wounded.

Hours later, another explosives-laden motorcycle exploded in western Baghdad, killing at least one civilian and wounding three others.

The use of motorcycles underscores the resilience of militants as they adopt new tactics to penetrate the concrete walls and other measures aimed at preventing car bombs and suicide attacks.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said it was hard to pinpoint blame with motorcycle bombs as they have been used by al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni insurgents as well as Shiite extremists.

"They have started to use motorcycles more because they are easy to move and can be used to avoid security checkpoints," the official

said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss sensitive information with the media.

The U.S. military and other Iraqi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Associated Press has recorded five booby-trapped motorcycle bombings this month in Iraq that have killed at least 104 people, including one on June 24 in Baghdad's Sadr City that killed 78 civilians and injured another 143 — one of the deadliest bombings this year.

Before that, no parked motorcycle bombings had been reported in Baghdad since Aug. 19, 2007, when a motorcycle exploded in central Baghdad, killing one civilian and injuring four others.

Between January 25, 2007 and December 4, 2008, only five incidents involving motorcycle bombs were reported around Iraq, killing 25 people and wounding 110 more.

The numbers are based on AP reporting and are likely a minimum.

Followers of anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose movement is gearing up to contest national elections on Jan. 30, blamed the Americans for the recent bombings, saying they were using them as an excuse not to withdraw completely. □



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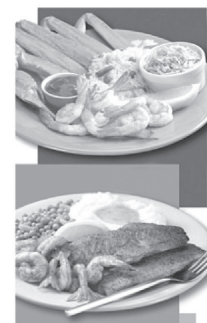
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Rights group: Abuse in Zimbabwe diamond fields

CELEAN JACOBSON
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG (AP)

— Human Rights Watch said Friday that Zimbabwe's armed forces have taken over diamond fields in the east and killed more than 200 people, forcing children to search for the gems and beating villagers who get in the way.

Zimbabwe's deputy mining minister, Murisi Zwizwai, denied the allegations and said the military is there to secure the area.

More than 100 witnesses, miners, police officers, soldiers and children were interviewed for the Human Rights Watch report titled "Diamonds in the Rough." It details allegations of human rights abuses by Zimbabwean armed forces in their attempt to control access to the precious gems.

The New York-based group said researchers had gathered evidence of mass graves and accounts of an incident last year when military helicopters fired at miners, while armed soldiers on the ground chased

villagers from the area.

"There are hundreds of victims of human rights abuses that are unwilling to come forward for fear of the military," Zimbabwe researcher Dewa Mavhinga said.

The report also alleges that some of the income from the diamond fields is going to officials of President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, long accused of trampling on human rights and democracy in the southern African country.

The international human rights watchdog is calling on Zimbabwe's coalition government, formed in February, to stop the alleged abuses and to prosecute those responsible.

It also is urging the international body that governs the global diamond industry to press Zimbabwe, a participant, to end the illegal trade in Marange diamonds. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, established in 2002, aims to stem the flow of "blood

diamonds" being used to fund fighting across Africa. Participants are forced to certify the origins of the diamonds being traded. This assures consumers that by purchasing diamonds they are not financing war and human rights abuses.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said the group is calling for the definition of blood diamonds to be broadened to include gems mined through "repression and violent abuses" by governments.

The Marange diamond fields were discovered in 2006 — at the height of Zimbabwe's political, economic and humanitarian crisis. Villagers rushed to the area and began finding diamonds close to the surface. Mining is now managed by Zimbabwe's Mining Development Corporation under protection of the military.

It is estimated that the diamonds could be worth \$200 million a month to the cash-strapped country, but



Miners dig for diamonds in Marange, Zimbabwe, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2006. Human Rights Watch said Friday June 26, 2009, that Zimbabwe's armed forces have taken over diamond fields in the east of Zimbabwe and killed more than 2,000 people, forcing children to search for the precious gems and beating villagers who get in the way.

Associated Press

the Mining Development Corporation claimed in 2007 that it was made \$15 million from gem exports.

Zwizwai, the Zimbabwean deputy minister, said the country did not have the money to fence off the area and so was using the military to secure the diamond fields. He said there had been no deaths by the military but that there had been "skirmishes"

among the illegal diggers, which resulted in three reported deaths and eight arrests.

"The special operation by security forces has been successful as evidenced by (the) order and sanity which now prevails in the Marange area," he told The Associated Press on the sidelines of a Kimberley Process meeting in neighboring Namibia. □

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Somalis create world's largest refugee camp

MALKHADIR MUHUMED

Associated Press Writer

DADAAB, Kenya (AP) — The bloody conflict in Somalia has created the world's largest refugee camp, with 500 hungry and exhausted refugees pouring into this wind-swept camp in neighboring Kenya every day, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday. Dadaab, just 50 miles from the Somali border, is home to more than 280,000 refugees in an area meant to hold just 90,000.

So far this year, the U.N. refugee agency has registered nearly 38,000 new arrivals, UNHCR spokesman William Spindler said Friday. The vast majority of them are fleeing violence and poverty in Somalia as Islamic insurgents try to topple the government. "It is hunger and destitution that drove us from our country," Abdullahi Abdi Dahir, 50, said earlier this week. He fled Somalia with his wife and their five children, the youngest just 3 months old. "All we need

now is something to eat and a shelter for the family." Since May 7, fighting between Islamist insurgent groups and government forces has killed at least 225 people, and displaced nearly 170,000 from their homes in the capital, Mogadishu. The three camps that make up Dadaab were established in 1991 after Somali warlords toppled dictator Siad Barre and carved the country into armed camps ruled by clan law. The area was never meant to hold so many people, and overcrowding has become a massive problem. "The new influx of refugees is putting more pressure on an already aged infrastructure," said Anne Campbell, head of the UNHCR's office in Dadaab. "We are appealing to the Kenyan government to provide us land to settle them (new refugees), and call on the donors to give us the funding we need to set up a new camp and upgrade the old ones." Many longtime refugees also lament the fact that they cannot



Somali refugees gathered around a water point on Thursday June 25, 2009 at Hagardhere refugee camp in Daadab, northern Kenya on Thursday June 25, 2009. The bloody conflict in Somalia has created the world's largest refugee camp, with 500 hungry and exhausted refugees pouring into this wind-swept camp in neighboring Kenya every day, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Dadaab, just 50 miles from the Somali border, is home to more than 280,000 refugees in an area meant to hold just 90,000.

Associated Press

leave the camp to make a life in Kenya. The government has strict rules requiring them to stay, arguing that integration into Kenya is not a "durable solution" for refugees. Kenya closed its border in January 2007 to prevent Islamists fleeing Somalia from entering the country, but the closure also has forced refugees to sneak into Kenya. Some refugees, like Dahir's family, avoid border points entirely and use donkey routes in the bush. Dahir said the trip to the refugee camp took his family 10 days, two of which they walked on foot. He said he begged drivers of the cars heading for border towns to take his family. The Dadaab camp complex is the world's largest refugee

camp, followed by Tindouf in Algeria, where some 90,000 are staying, according to UNHCR. Before this year's influx of refugees began at Dadaab, the refugees were complaining about shortage of services and aged infrastructure, such as health, sanitation and water systems. The U.N. said it needs funding to build 39,000 new latrines to cater for the increasing number of refugees. "The consequences of not having a functioning water system and adequate latrines could be very severe," said Daniel Dickinson, spokesman for the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office, which is spending \$4 million to repair the aged

water system in the camps and says it will build more than 5,000 latrines for refugees this year. "Certainly there could be a humanitarian catastrophe if these people are not getting enough water." But those fleeing violence care less about the aged facilities or the overflowing camps. Reaching safe camps, away from bullets and grinding poverty in Somalia, is all Dahir's wife, Hawo Ahmed, needs. "If you get food, what else do you need?" she said while breast-feeding her youngest child. "He will not get enough milk, I know. But when we settle down and I get enough food to eat, he will get sufficient milk." □

Swine flu detected at Argentina pig farm

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Swine flu has been detected in numerous pigs at a farm near the Argentine capital, but the virus has not shown itself to be any deadlier to the animals than a normal flu, the government said Friday. Jorge Amaya, chief of the National Agricultural Health and Quality Service, told Mitre radio that about a quarter of pigs at the unidentified farm in Buenos Aires province were found to be infected. "The mortality rate is less than 2 percent, which is typical of a normal flu for swine," Amaya said. Nevertheless, he said, "Veterinarians are very

worried because humans are infecting the animals." Amaya added that eating pork poses no danger to people. Pork Producers' Association president Juan Uccelli said the farm would be closed down for an investigation of the H1N1 virus' evolution there. Swine flu was previously found in pigs last month on a farm in Alberta, Canada. About 500 hogs were killed because a quarantine on the farm created overcrowding — not because they were sick, officials there said. □



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Sarkozy allows Martinique to hold autonomy vote

RODOLPHE LAMY

Associated Press Writer

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique (AP) — French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Friday that Martinique is free to hold a referendum on greater political autonomy but made clear the island would always belong to France.

Sarkozy traveled to Martinique and Guadeloupe as the islands recover from violent strikes that crippled the economy and shuttered schools and businesses earlier this year.

Sarkozy did not say when a referendum might be held, but said he would meet soon with appointed officials.

“Martinicans will be free to choose in their heart and conscience the road they would like to take,” he said. “The debate is not about independence, but rather of a fair autonomous status. Martinique is French and will remain so.”

Appointed officials in Martinique said last week that they would favor a change in status.

Martinique and Guadeloupe last

presented the issue to voters in December 2003, and the majority rejected reforms that would have created one local legislature with more power.

Earlier this year, union leaders in both islands organized violent strikes that lasted more than a month to demand higher wages and lower prices. Business leaders eventually signed agreements to enforce those changes.

The protests were partly driven by resentment among Afro-Caribbean islanders toward the bekes, a minority group descendent of slaveholders that controls most of the economy.

Sarkozy said Thursday that he cannot defend the current status of the overseas territories.

“To defend the status quo would be incomprehensible,” he said. “The status quo means perpetuating a system that is unfair, obscure and biased.”

Local legislator Alfred Almont urged people to vote and decide the island’s future. “The president



French President Nicolas Sarkozy stops to take a photograph with a local woman, left, as he arrives at the airport in Abymes, on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, Friday, June 26, 2009.

Associated Press

has said that he understands our people,” Almont said. “I am delighted because it is time to give answers to the questions posed.”

Sarkozy traveled Friday from Martinique to Guadeloupe, where

he was expected to meet with workers and appointed leaders.

Members of Guadeloupe’s strike-organizing Collective Against Exploitation union have refused to meet with Sarkozy. □



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Federer advances to 4th round at Wimbledon

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Roger Federer lost a set for the first time this week but advanced to the second week at Wimbledon by beating Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-1.

Federer was a break up in the fourth set before losing his focus, and two errant forehands cost him the tiebreaker. That merely extended his Centre Court workout by half an hour.

“It has been a good first week,” he said. “Pretty convincing. I thought this was my best match of the tournament, even though I dropped a set. I’m excited about the second week.”

Federer earned a berth in the fourth round Monday against a familiar foe — Robin Soderling. Federer beat



Serena Williams of U.S. plays a return to Roberta Vinci of Italy during their third round singles match at Wimbledon, Friday, June 26, 2009.

Associated Press

Soderling in the French Open final this month to complete a career Grand Slam and win his 14th major title, tying Pete Sampras’ record.

Now the No. 2-seeded Federer seeks his sixth Wimbledon title, and he’s a heavy favorite with defending champion Rafael Nadal absent because of bad knees.

“It’s down to business in the second week,” Federer said. “This is where it gets really interesting.”

While Federer played on Centre Court, where the new retractable roof was open for the fifth consecutive day, two-time champion Serena Williams was assigned to Court 2 and arrived six minutes late for her match. Otherwise Williams remained right on schedule, beating Roberta Vinci 6-3, 6-4.

Continued on Page B12

Netherlands’ Ponson positive for stimulant at WBC

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Netherlands pitcher Sidney Ponson tested positive for a stimulant during the World Baseball Classic and has been banned from international competition for two years.

Major League Baseball will not suspend Ponson, who plays for the Kansas City Royals. Under the drug rules, he will be treated as a first-time offender and is subject to a medical review and fine.

The International Baseball Federation said on Friday that Ponson tested positive for Phentermine, a weight-loss drug that is similar in chemical structure to an amphetamine.

The 32-year-old Ponson pitched well for the Netherlands last March in the Classic and later signed a minor league contract with Kansas City. Ponson is 1-5 with a 7.27 ERA as a starter and reliever for the

Royals. He has been on the 15-day disabled list since May 30 because of a strained right elbow.

Ponson was scheduled to make a rehabilitation start for Triple-A Omaha on Friday at Memphis. He has pitched two games for Omaha, giving up two earned runs in seven innings. “During the offseason, Sidney consulted with a physician about weight loss and was prescribed a common appetite suppressant,” said Ponson’s agent, Barry Praver. “Under the belief that this was sufficient, he did not seek further authorization, which he now understands would have been granted.”

“Notably, Sidney voluntarily disclosed the use of the appetite suppressant at the time of testing. Nevertheless, Sidney accepts the penalty imposed even though he certainly was not seeking to enhance his performance nor



Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Sidney Ponson wipes his brow after giving up a run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox Friday, May 29, 2009, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

does anyone involved in the matter believe so.”

On Thursday, catcher Geovany Soto acknowledged that he tested positive for marijuana while playing for Puerto Rico in the WBC. □

NY Islanders draft Tavares No. 1 overall

SEAN FARRELL

For the Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — The New York Islanders selected Canadian center John Tavares with the No. 1 pick in the NHL entry draft on Friday.

The Islanders chose 18-year-old Tavares, a high-scoring junior star, with the first overall pick ahead of 6-foot-6, 220-pound (1.98-meter, 100-kilogram) Swedish defenseman Victor Hedman, the top-ranked European prospect.

The Tampa Bay Lightning took Hedman and the Colorado Avalanche followed with forward Matt Duchene, as the first three selections went as expected.

Tavares led the Ontario Hockey League with 58 goals this season and broke Peter Lee’s 33-year-old league record of 213 career goals.

Islanders GM Garth Snow kept the team’s draft intentions a closely guarded secret right



John Tavares from the London Knights slips on his jersey after being selected by the New York Islanders as the No. 1 overall pick at the 2009 NHL hockey entry draft Friday, June 26, 2009, in Montreal.

Associated Press

until he announced Tavares’ name to the Bell Centre crowd as the team’s fourth No. 1 pick overall in draft history, and the first since they made Rick DiPietro the first goalie selected first overall in 2000. □

Armstrong, old-school racing on tap at 2009 Tour

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — France's anti-doping crusaders are stockpiling needles for testing blood and cups for sampling urine, and two new books on Lance Armstrong have just been released in France. Must be about time for the Tour de France.

The seven-time champion is back from retirement, four years after his last victory. Teammate Alberto Contador, the 2007 winner and a top pre-race favorite, returns after Astana wasn't allowed to compete last year.

They are allies, but could become rivals too.

The race starts on July 4 with a challenging 15.5-kilometer (10-mile) prologue in Monaco, the tiny principality in southeast France. The pack will then head out along the Mediterranean, through the Pyrenees, across central France, into the Alps and then up the fabled Mont Ventoux a day before the July 26 finish in Paris.

Riders will dip into Spain, Switzerland and Italy during the 3,500-kilometer (2,140-mile) trek and face 20 major mountain climbs during the three weeks.

Tour designers have spiced up the route and revived some

rules from the good old days in hopes that fans will have something — anything — to get their minds off the drug use that has marred cycling's premier event in recent years. Judges from UCI, the sport's governing body, will be back, a year after they were kept out because of a bitter spat with Tour organizers over doping that has now been patched up. The UCI has rolled out its "biological passport" anti-doping program, in which samples were taken from 840 professional riders to determine their body chemistry profiles. Any suspicious fluctuation from those levels could lead to penalties, even if no specific substance turns up in tests.

France's anti-doping agency, the AFLD, says it's going to target suspicious riders, rather than focus on random tests used in previous years, and will test for an unspecified new drug.

The agency has also been authorized to freeze samples taken during the Tour. This allows them to be tested in the future for drugs that haven't yet been identified as performance enhancers.

"We know there are some particular substances and methods, and we are going to try to detect them, sooner or later," said Pierre Bordry,

head of the AFLD, which helped nab six cheats at last year's Tour.

"There are things that aren't found in blood, but I'm not going to give an example, because I've learned over the years the people who advise athletes on doping adopt their programs based on drug-testers' mindsets," Bordry told The Associated Press in an interview on Thursday.

For Armstrong, who famously insisted he was the world's most-tested athlete during his glory years and has never tested positive, the welcome back to a still largely suspicious France may not be warm. □



In this May 9, 2009 file picture, Lance Armstrong leads the Astana team during the first stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race. The World Cycling Association UCI said Wednesday June 10, 2009 that the Astana team has not yet paid the required guarantee amount. If the money would not be paid, the team could lose their license, the UCI said.

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Roger Federer of Switzerland acknowledge the crowd after defeating Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany during their third round singles match on centre court at Wimbledon, Friday, June 26, 2009.

FEDERER - WIMBLEDON
Continued from Page B10

No. 4-seeded Novak Djokovic, who could face Federer in the semifinals, defeated American Mardy Fish 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Federer could have won more quickly. He converted only seven of 22 break-point chances and led 4-2 in the

Associated Press

third set, before the No. 32-ranked Kohlschreiber played his best stretch of tennis. Federer had a rare display of frustration after he pulled an easy forehand wide trailing 5-4 in the tiebreaker. Kohlschreiber ripped a backhand winner two points later to force a fourth set, but Federer pulled away

from there and extended his winning streak to 15 matches, his longest in two years.

"Sure, I would have loved to win in straight sets, but he came back strong," Federer said. "I was happy how I reacted. I didn't panic."

Soderling reached the fourth round for the first time in seven appearances at Wimbledon by defeating Nicolas Almagro 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-4. The Swede lost only three points on his first serve and never faced a break point.

Up next: Federer. Soderling has lost all 10 of their matches.

"It's tough to play against Roger," Soderling said. "I've played him 10 times, and after the match I never felt like I played well. But I mean, it's not because of me. I think it's because of him."

Unseeded Dudi Sela became the first Israeli man in 20 years to reach the fourth round when he beat No. 15 Tommy Robredo 7-6 (8), 7-5, 2-6, 7-5. No. 22 Ivo Karlovic hit 46 aces, the last on match point, and beat No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5).

In women's play, 19-year-old Victoria Azarenka made a successful Centre Court debut by beating Sorana Cirstea 7-6 (2), 6-3. Gisela Dulko, who upset 2004 champion Maria

Sharapova in the second round, was eliminated by No. 10 Nadia Petrova 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventh-seeded Vera Zvonareva, slowed by an ankle injury since April, pulled out before her match against No. 26 Virginie Razzano. Fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva, a semifinalist last year, cruised past qualifier Regina Kulikova 6-1, 6-2.

Williams' tardy arrival inspired brief speculation she might be a no-show. Once that ended, so did the prospect of an upset against Vinci.

Williams said she was late heading to the court at the south end of the club because she was awaiting an escort.

"I thought someone was going to come get me," she said. "I was waiting and waiting. Finally I was like, 'OK, I think I'm just going to go out.' I'm used to someone coming and saying, 'OK, let's go.'"

The mix-up didn't rattle Williams, who hit 10 aces and committed only 12 unforced errors to win for the 172nd time in 200 Grand Slam matches. The only other active woman to play so many matches in major tournaments is her sister, five-time Wimbledon champion Venus (219).

The No. 2-seeded Serena used her penetrating strokes to push Vinci around the court. One

time the Italian scrambled to retrieve a shot in the corner several steps beyond the lines, then stood helpless as Williams hit a winner into the other corner.

Only briefly did Williams waver, with a series of misplays midway through the second set. She squealed in anguish when a poor aim cost her a point at the net. She squealed again when she double-faulted on break point. When she pulled a backhand wide to lose another game, she stomped the grass and said, "Ai-yi-yi."

Serving at 4-3, she fell behind love-30, then hit three aces to hold.

Two games later, one final ace gave her the match, and she screamed, "Yes!"

"I don't think I played great today at all," Williams said. "I'm just glad to have gotten through it and go on to the next match."

Williams' opponent in the round of 16 Monday will be Daniela Hantuchova, who beat doubles partner Ai Sugiyama 6-4, 6-3. Williams is 6-1 against Hantuchova.

"She's such a smooth player," Williams said. "I have to make sure I don't rush myself, because she is playing well, and I think she's moving well. So I'm going to have to really bring a tough game." □

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In this Sept. 9, 1960, file photo, President Dwight Eisenhower, right, enjoys a laugh with Arnold Palmer before they played a round of golf together in a foursome at the Gettysburg Country Club, Gettysburg, Penn.

Associated Press

Eisenhower first president put in golf Hall of Fame

ST. AUGUSTINE, Florida (AP) — Former president Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose passion for golf helped to boost its popularity after World War II, was selected to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame on Friday.

He will be the first U.S. president in the Hall of Fame when he is inducted posthumously on Nov. 2 at the World Golf Village.

“One would be hard-pressed to find any single person who did more to popularize the game of golf, not only in the United States but throughout the world, than President Eisenhower,” Arnold Palmer said. “His visibility, coupled with his passion for the game, were the inspiration for literally millions of people picking up the game for the first time.”

“Those involved in golf today owe him a great debt of gratitude.”

Eisenhower was a member of Augusta National and close friends with the late Clifford Roberts, who founded the home of the Masters along with amateur great Bobby Jones.

Even now, the former president’s influence is felt each April during the Masters.

The tee shot on the 17th is difficult because of the “Eisenhower Tree,” a loblolly pine that is 65 feet (20 meters) high, more than 100 years old and about 210 yards off the tee down the left side.

It gave Ike fits during so many rounds.

Eisenhower finally campaigned to have the tree removed, proposing during an Augusta National governors’ meeting in 1956 that it be cut down. Roberts overruled him and adjourned the meeting.

After his election in 1952, club members built a special cabin for him — The Eisenhower Cabin — complete with space for Secret Service agents on the bottom floor.

He also has a pond named after him on the Par 3 Course called “Ike’s Pond.” According to club history, Eisenhower was walking through the woods on the east part of the property when he told Roberts he had found a perfect spot to build a dam for fishing.

Eisenhower made 45 trips to Augusta National — five before his election, 29 while in office and 11 after his two terms as president.

According to “First Off The Tee,” a book on U.S. presidents who played golf, 3.2 million Americans played golf when Eisenhower took office in January 1953, a number that had doubled when he left office. □

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Congreso Honduras estudia inhabilitar al presidente

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Legisladores de Honduras estudian quitar del cargo al presidente Manuel Zelaya, en medio de la crisis derivada de la intención del mandatario de realizar una consulta popular que abra el camino a la reelección, resistida por distintos sectores. La crisis estalló cuando Zelaya destituyó el miércoles al jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto, general Romeo Vásquez, ante la negativa de las fuerzas armadas a

Un manifestante sostiene una copia de la constitución de la República de Honduras durante una protesta contra una reforma propuesta por el presidente Manuel Zelaya, en Tegucigalpa, 26 jun 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

movilizar las urnas para la consulta del domingo, que fue declarada ilegal por un juez.

La Corte Suprema de Justicia ordenó el jueves restituir a Vásquez y Zelaya acudió con simpatizantes a una base militar a retirar las urnas para la consulta, tras denunciar un intento de golpe de Estado desde el Congreso y la Corte Suprema.

Pero el viernes por la madrugada dijo que el riesgo de un golpe de Estado ya había pasado.

“El golpe se ha conjurado, el país está en tranquilidad”, dijo el mandatario a periodistas.

Legisladores del opositor Partido Nacional dijeron a Reuters que una comisión multipartidaria nombrada por el Congreso para investigar

al presidente concluyó que ha violado las leyes, por lo que pedirían al parlamento de 128 miembros declararlo incompetente e iniciarle un proceso legal.

“En lo que coincidimos es en declararlo incompetente para seguir gobernando el país”, dijo el diputado del Partido Nacional Wilfredo Bustillo, integrante de la comisión en donde también está presente el gobernante Partido Liberal.

“Eso es lo que se va pedir ante el pleno del Congreso” unicameral, agregó.

El Congreso unicameral está formado por 55 legisladores del Partido Nacional, 62 liberales -pero algunos de ellos no apoyan la consulta- y 11 de partidos opositores más pequeños. □

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Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz 52

San Nicolas
Caya Principal

TEL:

588-7919

Hadicurari

Restaurant at the Fisherman's Pier - Aruba



Hadicurari

Seafood with a View

For a fresh approach to Seafood, enjoy Today's Catch caught by Aruba's Local Fisherman by Hadicurari Pier Daily.

Enjoy Indoor and Outdoor Casual Dining in this Beautifully shaded Seaside Restaurant which features an Extensive Menu of Fresh Caught Seafoods and Steaks and other splendid dishes all prepared with an International flair by our established Chef and his team of culinary professionals.

Take in enviable sea views and romantic sunset settings from any seat you choose in this stylishly comfortable restaurant.

Chef John only uses the Freshest Ingredients of the highest quality in the magnificent meals he prepares with a light expert hand.

Open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, this popular restaurant has an exciting menu with an energetic vibe which includes not only a lengthy roster of Fresh Fish but crusty Paninis, Gyros and an 8oz grouper burger which promises to be grilled to perfection. More choices like Tataki, creamy Risotto and diverse Seafood Tapas round out the eclectic menu served by Hadicurari's exceptional staff.

Seal the evening with a kiss, with the Restaurant's signature drink, Sunchi (kiss in our local language). Designer coffees, after dinner drinks and cordials join the offering in the impressive Premium Bar.

www.hadicurari.com - Phone: 586-2288

Open daily from 8am - 11pm

Located next to Marriot's Surf Club



Café the Plaza

Café the Plaza
(at Renaissance Marketplace, Downtown)
International Cuisine
Phone: 583-8826
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live music.
A Dutch style restaurant with moderate prices
Open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.cafetheplaza.com



Tango Argentine Grill

Tango Argentine Grill
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Charcoal Grill
Phone: 586-8600
Dinner and Daily Live Music. World famous Argentine beef prepared on open charcoal grill.
Open from 5.00 pm - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.tangoaruba.com



Salt & Pepper

Salt & Pepper
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
International Cuisine and Tapas
Phone: 586-3280
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Daily Live music by local artists and bands on our large terrace.
Open from 8.00 am - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.saltandpepperaruba.com



MooMba Beach

MooMba Beach
(between Holiday Inn & Marriott Surf Club)
International Cuisine
Phone: 586-5365
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Daily Live Music.
Enjoy dinner by torch light... barefoot on the beach. Open from 7.00 am - 11.00 pm
Bar open from 10.00 am - 01.00 am
www.moombabeach.com



Sopranos Piano Bar

Sopranos Piano Bar
(at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels)
Bar with Live Entertainment
Phone: 586-8622
Extensive Cocktail menu. Daily live music, request your favorite songs and sing along! Open from 5.00 pm - 01.00 am
7 days a week
www.sopranospianobar.com



Matilde

Matilde Restaurant
(Downtown)
International Cuisine
AAA/4 Diamond Award
Phone: 583-9200
Lunch and Dinner
A refined dining experience.
Restaurant open from 11.30 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.matildearuba.com



Mambo Jambo

Mambo Jambo Latin Bar & Grill
(Royal Plaza Downtown)
International & Latin Cuisine
Phone: 583-3632
Lunch, Dinner, Live Bands, Salsa Dancing, Great food and good music 7 days a week. Restaurant open from 11.00 am - 09.00 pm,
Bar open from 11.00 am - 04.00 am
www.mambojamboaruba.com



Hadicurari

Hadicurari Restaurant
(between MooMba Beach and Marriott Surf Club)
International and Seafood Cuisine
Phone: 586-2288
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
'Seafood with a view'
Restaurant open from 8.00 am - 11.00 pm
7 days a week
www.hadicurari.com



WWW.ARUBAWINEANDDINE.COM

